



GHSA

“Items of Interest”

October 2012

‘Year of Adjustments’ Will Be Challenge for Office and Schools

The 2012-2013 GHSA school year may well be named the “Year of Adjustments.”

This was the way I began my Executive Director’s Report to the GHSA Executive Committee at the fall meeting. Many far-reaching policies and procedures were enacted to begin this year, and all of us will face a large number of adjustments. I want to highlight just a few of the major changes that the GHSA membership will have to face.

The expansion from five classifications to six has produced new regular-season matchups and will produce new procedures in post-season play. It will be important for all those involved in athletic administration to become very familiar with the GHSA web site in each sport in order to keep track of the changes that will be occurring.

There is an added excitement with new procedures, but there is also the potential for discomfort – especially if a person does not have up-to-date information.

The development of “two roads to the championships” for Class A public and private schools will impact schools in all classifications. In the sports of Football, Softball, Basketball, and Baseball, a **power-ranking system** will be used that is somewhat different for each sport. It is essential that all Class A coaches and administrators become familiar with these procedures.

In some of those sports, schools that compete against Class A schools will need to submit their scores for the entire season to MaxPrep so the power-rating numbers will be accurate for the Class A schools. This procedure was mandated by the Executive Committee, so it is **not** optional.

In other sports, there are Area designations that differ from Regional alignments, and the Class A procedures will differ from other classes. And in still other sports, the public and private schools in Class A will compete for a single championship. Again, all this information is found on the GHSA web site.

An exciting component of the GHSA web site is the new online GHSA Directory. This can be accessed at the top of the home page by clicking on “Schools” and getting the drop-down menu. Three printed copies will be sent to each member school in the near future, but we anticipate that most people will begin to rely on the electronic format.

Anytime change and adjustment is involved, there is an increased need for good communication and a spirit of cooperation. Some of the changes have been more complicated than anticipated, but people have worked hard and most of the difficulties are being resolved. The GHSA staff stands ready to help as we all move forward with our adjustments.



– Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Newsletter
Issued monthly, September through April, by the Georgia High School Association, P.O. Box 271, Thomaston, GA 30286

Phone: 706-647-7473 Fax: 706-647-2638 Web: www.ghsa.net

OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Vol. 31 October 2012 No. 2

- GHSA STAFF -
Areas of Responsibility

RALPH SWEARNGIN (extension 7)

- Executive Director -
Administration, Interpretation of GHSA Rules,
Hardship Appeals

GARY PHILLIPS (extension 6)

- Assistant Executive Director -
Student Eligibility, Community Coach Program,
Cross Country, Track, Golf

STEVE FIGUEROA (extension 4)

- Director of Media Relations -
Press Releases, Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,
Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

DENNIS PAYNE (extension 23)

- Associate Director -
Football, Baseball, Swimming

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- Associate Director -
Basketball, Soccer, Softball

DENIS TALLINI (extension 34)

- Associate Director -
Lacrosse, Volleyball, Wrestling, Sports Medicine

ROBIN BULLINGTON (extension 33)

- Business Manager -
Finances, Dues

PAM THOMPSON (extension 30)

- Officials' Registrar -
Officials' Registration, Test Scoring and Records

TANYA ANDERSON (extension 2)

- Administrative Assistant -
Sanctioning of Events, School Passes,
Directory, Coaches' Clinic Attendance

JULIE JONES (extension 1)

- Administrative Assistant -
Community Coach Program, Entry Notification

SHERI BROOKS (extension 0)

- Receptionist -
Lifetime Passes, School System Passes,
Ejection Reports, Publication Orders

STACEY BASILICI (extension 32)

- Administrative Assistant -
Mailing, Shipping, Filing, Office Assistant

GHSA Licensed Products

This month's featured GHSA licensees are: **Georgia Photographic** (georgiaphotographics.com) and **Athletic Image** (theathleticimage.com), official action photographers; **Chill Zone** (chillzonellc.com), sales/rentals of misting fans and heaters; and **PlayOn Sports**, provide everything your school needs to produce, distribute and monetize your own video streaming Web channel (playonsports.com / pat.ewart@playonsports.com). View a complete list of licensees at www.ghsa.net/licensing.

REMINDER: GHSA Membership Dues Must Be Paid On Or Before October 15th!

Online Wrestling Clinics Set!

All Wrestling Coaches must complete the online **NFHS/GHSA Rules Clinic** again this season. The Rules Clinic is available on the GHSA web site between the dates of Saturday, Sept. 29 and Sunday Oct. 21 ONLY!

In addition, at least one (1) coach from each member school must complete the online **Weight Management Seminar** between the dates of Saturday, Sept. 29 and Sunday Oct. 21, also on the GHSA web site.

State Softball Playoff Information

Teams advancing to the GHSA State Softball Championships presented by Mizuno on October 25-27 need to follow the procedures listed below (instructions for which may be found on the GHSA web site):

TEAM ROSTER AND PHOTO – Must be emailed to the Columbus Sports Council at msherman@columbusga.org by 12 p.m., on Monday, October 22. Failure to do so will result in a \$250 fine to the school.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS – Go to www.visitcolumbusga.org for team registration and hotel selection. The site will not be active until 8 p.m., on Saturday, October 20. For more information regarding team lodging call 1-800-999-1613 or 706-322-1613 and refer to "GHSA Housing" when you call.

OPENING CEREMONIES – Every team playing in the Championship will be required to attend the Opening Ceremonies in uniform at 2 p.m., on October 25. The Opening Ceremonies will take place after the noon games on the Stadium Field.

ON-LINE INFORMATION PACKETS – The team information packets for First Round and Second Round contests as well as for the State Finals tournament are available **now** on the GHSA website. Go to www.ghsa.net and click on the appropriate banners.

PRESALE TOURNAMENT TICKETS – Go to www.columbusgasports.com to purchase presale tickets. Click on "Softball" then "GHSA" then "Tickets" to make the purchase. This function will be available beginning Monday, October 22.

Stay Connected to the GHSA!

For all coaches, athletic directors and teams that are active in social media, the GHSA invites you to follow ("like") the GHSA on [Facebook.com/OfficialGHSA](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialGHSA) and be a fan at [Twitter.com/officialGHSA](https://twitter.com/officialGHSA). Statewide news, association announcements and playoff information are posted daily for interaction with GHSA followers and fans. When Twittering scores of games, please include the tag "@OfficialGHSA" to enable scores to be posted on the GHSA feed.



Volleyball on GHSA.tv

Get set for action at the GHSA Volleyball State Championships presented by Mizuno on November 3 at Marietta High School and November 5 at McEachern High School.

All six (6) finals from both sites will video stream live for a sixth season on GHSA.tv in partnership with PlayOn Sports. The full schedule will be posted on GHSA.net.

Webcast sponsors are: Mizuno, Verizon and Molten.

SEMIFINAL MATCHES

October 31, 2012

- 6A Chattahoochee High School
- 5A McIntosh High School
- 4A Marist School
- 3A Woodward Academy
- 2A Wesleyan School
- A Pinecrest Academy



CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

November 3, 2012

- A, 2A, 3A & 4A ... Marietta High School
- November 5, 2012
- 5A & 6A McEachern High School



GHSA Welcomes New Sponsor

The GHSA welcomes new corporate partner **Technical College System of Georgia**, which has 25 colleges that offer affordable education and excellent training in more than 600 certificate, diploma and two-year associate degree programs.

TCSG is underwriter of GPB TV coverage of GHSA football, basketball and cheerleading.

GHSA was also pleased to renew partners: **Verizon, Georgia Army National Guard, Marines, Georgia Electric Membership Corporation and Regions Bank.**

Joining GHSA as a new licensee is **Chill Zone**, the official misting fans and heaters sales/rentals of the GHSA.



Online Basketball Clinics Set!

All Basketball Coaches are reminded that they must complete the online **NFHS / GHSA Rules Clinic**. The Rules Clinic is available on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net) between the dates of Friday, Oct. 19 and Sunday, Oct. 28 **ONLY!**

REMINDER: GHSA Membership Dues Must Be Paid On Or Before October 15th!

GHSA Official Balls

Coaches and school administrators are reminded that the GHSA State Executive Committee has approved "Official" balls for all GHSA state playoff events.

Listed below are the balls that will be provided for GHSA state playoff events. These balls are effective from now through June 30, 2013.

| Sport | Make/Model |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Baseball | WILSON A1010 |
| Basketball | WILSON WAVE Boys: B0610 Girls: B0611 |
| Football | WILSON F1003 or F1005 |
| Soccer | BRINE "Championship" |
| Softball (optic yellow 12") | WILSON A9011 BSST |
| Volleyball | MOLTEN IV58L-3-HS "Super Touch" |

GHSA SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

Please insure that the following statement is read as a public address announcement prior to the start of **every GHSA sanctioned contest**:

"The GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events.

Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site.

Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted.

Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's event."



National High School Activities Month

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has designated the month of October as National High School Activities Month to help schools throughout the nation promote the values inherent in high school athletic and performing arts activities.

Started in 1980 as National High School Activities Week, the NFHS expanded the celebration to a month last year to provide additional time for the 19,000-plus high schools to hold special activities at the local level.

"High school sports and activity programs provide one of the best bargains in our community and nation and will continue to do so as long as our nation supports them as an integral part of the education of our young people," said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. "Not only do these programs teach the more than 11 million young people who participate in them valuable life skills lessons, such as ethics, integrity and healthy lifestyles, they also provide the best entertainment value in our nation."

The NFHS has provided suggested activities for schools during each of the week-long events. All materials for National High School Activities Month, including The Case for High School Activities, are available on the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org (About NFHS/About Us Resources/2012 National High School Activities Month Materials).

Ways to Celebrate 'Activities Month' - October, 2012

October 1-6

National Sportsmanship & Fan Appreciation Week

What You Can Do:

- Make up positive cheers, chants or songs
- Make posters for contest
- Cheer good plays made by the opposing team
- Offer tailgate party with hot chocolate and refreshments
- Give Booster Club members coupon for free pop and popcorn
- Introduce parents of players and cheerleaders during pregame ceremony
- Give school shirt to most avid fans (student and adult)
- Present chair cushion to a dedicated adult fan
- Dress up in your school spirit outfit
- During the course of the season, acknowledge season ticket-holders by name
- Hand out incentives to faculty, staff and students "caught" being a good sport

October 8-13

National Performing Arts Activities Week

What You Can Do:

- Recognize performing arts participants at pep rally
- Have reception for students interested in joining performing arts programs
- Create magnetic posters for display on lockers of students involved in performing arts
- Invite local actors or musicians for performance with students
- Do feature story in school newspaper
- Present drama skit during lunch
- Have a performing arts participant read the morning or afternoon announcements
- Have former band members return to play with current band
- Have former band members who are parents return to play with current band
- Present program to elementary school or judge "American Idol" program at local nursing home

October 15-20

National Coaches/Sponsors/Advisors/Officials Week

What You Can Do:

- Ask non-coaching faculty to serve as "coach of the day" to give them different perspective
- Honor different coaches and advisors each hour of the day
- Recognize coaches and sponsors and their families on public-address system during events
- Invite retired coaches to attend practice or event
- Post signs thanking officials
- Send letters or e-mails of thanks to a coach, sponsor or advisor
- Host breakfast for officials who help in sports and fine arts
- Have round-table discussion with students, officials and parents
- Send certificates of recognition and appreciation letters to officials
- Present the NFHS Sportsmanship-Ethics-Integrity Award to deserving officials

October 22-27

National Community Service/Youth Awareness Week

What You Can Do:

- Offer a beneficial service to business partners, i.e., clean parking lot, cut grass, etc.
- Offer free admission to event to representatives of program advertisers
- Hold open house in gymnasium; invite alumni, businesses and media to attend
- Do radio (school) and TV PSAs (community access) with activities participants
- Offer school souvenirs at auction
- Put announcement on school marquee
- Videotape and put on YouTube or on the school's Web site
- Hold student workshops on health issues; recognize school nurse, trainer and team doctor
- Read a "health tip of the hour"
- Create and display bulletin boards and posters dealing with healthy lifestyle issues

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

September 17, 2012

MINUTES

The semiannual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on September 17, 2012, at the Marriott City Center, Macon, Georgia, by Dr. Gary Holmes, President. Following is a **condensed** version of the minutes of that meeting. A complete version may be found on the GHSA web site (www.ghsa.net).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Report presented by Wayne Tootle
The Committee recommended:

Adding under "Qualifications to Coach:" **By-law 2.51(f) and (g) (new)**

(f) If a currently certified faculty-coach at a GHSA school loses his/her teaching position because of a reduction in force action, that school may petition the Executive Director in writing for that individual to continue to coach without going through community coach training.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

(g) A teacher at a non-member school who is hired to be a coach at a member school must complete the GHSA Community Coach Education program and may not be a head coach. A consent form between the two schools must be completed annually.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

BY-LAW 2.17 (Editorial Change for Clarification)

Region and Area Divisions: A classification in any sport will be considered **regionalized** when a majority of the schools (with a minimum of 5) in all regions participate in that sport. In sports where all classifications are not regionalized, the classes may be divided into area alignments and the classifications may be combined.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

BY-LAW 2.25 (ADD AT END)

A proposal brought to the Executive Committee and not approved by a subcommittee and/or the full Executive Committee, may not be submitted for three meetings after the previous submission unless a substantive change has been made to that proposal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

BY-LAW 2.62(d6) (NEW)

No athlete will be allowed to compete in a GHSA game or contest (even in post-season play) unless accompanied by certified professional school personnel whose names have been submitted to the GHSA as coaches. Those students chaperoned by someone other than a certified professional will not be allowed to compete.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Approved the 2011-2012 Audit Report and Financial Report. **Addendum:** Finance Report. (NOTE: Audit reports are available by written request.)

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

DENIED:

Proposal to modify By-Law 2.62(a) to allow GHSA member schools to compete against GISA member schools during the regular season.

ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE: Report presented by Glenn White
The Committee tabled:

A proposal to review and clarify By-law 2.61c that deals with practice activities during the school day. ("A player who participates in a GHSA sport may not participate in practices during the sport season that occur during the school day even if that practice is not a part of the school's practice activity.")

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE: Report presented by Earl Etheridge
The Committee recommended:

When WBGT reaches the 87-92 range during a practice, players may continue to wear football pants with pads still in them rather than forcing a switch to shorts.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

(over)

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

WBGT readings should be taken every hour beginning 30 minutes before the scheduled beginning of practice.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

A "walk through" is defined as a one-hour period of time in which:

- a. No protective equipment may be worn
- b. No contact work may occur
- c. No full-speed drills may be held

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

During the five acclimatization practices, teams may hold a walk-through as long as there is a two-hour break between the two activities.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

A walk-through may not be held on days when two practices are conducted.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

If a practice is interrupted for a weather-related reason, the "clock" on that practice will stop and will begin again when the practice resumes.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

All heat illness policies are in effect for voluntary workouts that are held outside the sport season and during the summer.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

The committee tabled a request to review last year's decision to not allow players to wear shoulder pads at summer camps.

GOLF COMMITTEE: Report presented by Evan Horton

The Committee recommended:

Require all Area/Region and Sectional Golf Tournaments to play at a distance equal to or longer than the required distances for the State Tournaments: Boys – 6500 yards; Girls – 5500 yards. (Effective immediately)

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Each school will pay an entry fee to participate in the GHSA State Tournaments as follows: Boys' team - \$120.00; Girls' team - \$80.00; Individual qualifiers - \$20.00. The checks would be made payable to the golf course to help cover their costs and lost revenue. (Effective immediately)

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Each school will pay an entry fee to participate in GHSA Sectional Tournaments as follows: Boys' teams - \$120.00; Girls' teams - \$80.00; Individual qualifiers - \$20.00. The checks would be made payable to the golf course to help cover their costs and lost revenue. (Effective immediately)

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

In addition to the low scorer from a non-qualifying team in each region tournament advancing to the State Tournament to play for the individual title, the four lowest scores from the sectional tournament whose teams do not qualify for the State Tournament will also advance as individuals at the State Tournament.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

SOCCER COMMITTEE: Report presented by Dave Hunter

The Committee denied:

A proposal to allow high school Soccer coaches to coach a club team that has no more than five (5) players on the roster from the high school where the coach coaches and the players attend.

SWIMMING & DIVING COMMITTEE: Report presented by Rusty Hudson

The Committee recommended:

A proposal to score the top twenty (20) places in the GHSA State Swim Meet instead of the present 16 places.

MOTION FAILED (Roll Call Vote - Yes: 10 No: 45 Pass: 1)

Yes: Mathis, Long, Hunter, Brooks, Jewell, Parrott, Wilson, Hudson, Palmerton, Stinchcomb.

No: Giddens, Hoffman, Horton, Griggers, Suttle, Pilcher, Masters, Etheridge, M. Davis, Breedlove, McCrary, Corr, Stringer, Tootle, Finch,
(over)

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, *Continued*

Nobles, Payne, Sanford, C. Davis, Parris, Arnold, Beggs, Potts, Lancaster, Mobley, Hill, Fields, B. Rogers, White, Hughes, Ingram, Crews, Ingle, Tidwell, Thornton, Drew, Bradley, Williams, Blenke, Arasi, Truby, Hampton, T. Rogers, Norwood, Wade.

Pass: Holmes.

TENNIS COMMITTEE: Report presented by Bob Stinchcomb
The Committee recommended:

A proposal to replace the current GHSA rules against stacking (page 86, B1a-c) with:

1. Stacking of one's lineup is strictly prohibited in any regular-season match, invitational tournament, or state tournament match. An obvious attempt to stack a lineup (i.e., use a player or doubles team below their relative ability level on the team) may result in the immediate disqualification of the entire team.

2. For each regular-season match, the coach will choose three players (A, B, & C) to play singles and two pairs of players (D1 & D2) to play doubles that day. The best players of A, B, & C must play the #1 position in singles and the weakest player must play #3 singles. The best doubles team of D1 and D2 must play #1 doubles.

3. It is not stacking to alternate from match to match during the regular season the positions of A and B, B and C, and even A and C if the players are of relatively equal ability. Likewise, D1 and D2 could alternate if these teams are of relatively equal ability.

4. It is not stacking if players alternate from singles to doubles and vice versa, from match to match in the regular season as long as the singles players being used that day are listed from #1 to #3 according to ability, and the best doubles team plays #1 doubles. (Effective immediately)

MOTION PASSED (Roll Call Vote - Yes: 53 No: 2 Pass: 1)

Yes: Giddens, Hoffman, Horton, Griggers, Suttle, Mathis, Long, Hunter, Masters, Etheridge, M. Davis, Breedlove, McCrary, Corr, Stringer, Tootle, Finch, Nobles, Payne, Brooks, Jewell, Parrott, Sanford, C. Davis, Parris, Arnold, Beggs, Potts, Wilson, Lancaster, Mobley, Hill, Fields, Hudson, White, Hughes, Ingram, Crews, Ingle, Tidwell, Palmerton, Stinchcomb, Thornton, Drew, Bradley, Williams, Blenke, Arasi, Truby, Hampton, Rogers, Norwood, Wade.

No: Pilcher, Rogers.

Pass: Holmes.

DENIED:

A proposal for non-region, regular season tennis matches to use a collegiate format of six (6) singles matches and three (3) doubles matches with individual players allowed to play in both singles and doubles matches.

TRACK & FIELD COMMITTEE: Report presented by Jeff Beggs
The Committee recommended:

A proposal that the GHSA institute Sectional Cross Country Meets with a similar format as is used in Track and Field.

MOTION FAILED (Roll Call Vote - Yes: 8 No: 47 Pass: 1)

Yes: Griggers, Mathis, Long, Hunter, Breedlove, Finch, Jewell, Beggs.

No: Giddens, Hoffman, Horton, Suttle, Pilcher, Masters, Etheridge, M. Davis, McCrary, Corr, Stringer, Tootle, Nobles, Payne, Brooks, Parrott, Sanford, C. Davis, Parris, Arnold, Potts, Wilson, Lancaster, Mobley, Hill, Fields, B. Rogers, Hudson, White, Hughes, Ingram, Crews, Ingle, Tidwell, Palmerton, Stinchcomb, Thornton, Drew, Bradley, Williams, Blenke, Arasi, Truby, Hampton, T. Rogers, Norwood, Wade.

Pass: Holmes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director, gave a brief report to the Committee covering several topics including the increase of hardship appeals and eligibility investigations and how more and more schools and school systems are policing themselves, which is the way things are supposed to work. At the request of Lucia Norwood, he also spoke briefly on how the GHSA office will be organized now that long-time associate director Joyce Kay has retired and introduced new staff member Denis Tallini. Dr. Swearngin called on Alan Sharp, who spoke on the rapid changes in technology the past few years and reported on the upcoming launch of the newly designed GHSA web site. He also mentioned some new GHSA sponsors.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Earl Etheridge, second by Wayne Tootle, to give the GHSA office the authority to amend the Class A football power rankings that erroneously included language that would have counted games against teams playing non-region schedules in conflict with GHSA by-law 2.16.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn.

GHSA - October Calendar - 2012

October

| | |
|--------|---|
| 1 | Deadline for notification of entry in One Act Play & to set Riflery schedules |
| 6 | Complete Region Softball |
| 8 | Earliest date for Riflery match; Report Region Softball winners by 9 a.m. |
| 9 | Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting |
| 10, 11 | First Round State Softball Classes 2A through 6A |
| 12 | Deadline date to file Riflery schedules with GHSA office |
| 13 | Determine Area Volleyball winners |
| 15 | Report Area Volleyball winners by 9 a.m.; Deadline to pay GHSA dues |
| 17, 18 | Second Round State Softball 2A through 6A, First Round Class A |
| 17 | First Round State Volleyball in 2A, 3A & 4A |
| 18 | First Round State Volleyball in A, 5A & 6A |
| 20 | Complete Region/Area One Act Plays |
| 22 | Earliest practice date for Swimming; Fire reports of Region One Act Plays |
| 23 | Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting |
| 23 | Second Round State Volleyball for all classifications |
| 25-27 | State Softball Tournament Finals All Classes |
| 27 | Quarterfinals State Volleyball; State One Act Plays in A, 2A & 4A |
| 27 | Determine Area Cross Country Winners in Class A |
| 29 | Earliest date for Basketball & Wrestling practice |
| 31 | Semifinals State Volleyball |

GHSA Sponsors

